

PLAY #29 DOING WITHOUT

by

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CHARACTERS

HARRIET

A man transitioning into a woman. She passes as woman.

MAURY

Her boyfriend, also transitioning. But passes as a man.

DOING WITHOUT

(At Rise: The street. HARRIET and MAURY
await a bus.)

HARRIET

If we catch the bus, we could still make it on time.

MAURY

What if the bus doesn't come?

HARRIET

We'll take a taxi.

MAURY

Then we'll be late.

HARRIET

We wouldn't be late if you didn't have to tend to your
face before we left.

MAURY

I have pock marks.

HARRIET

And errant eyebrows. But we're not meeting the Queen
of England.

MAURY

I still like to try and look my best.

HARRIET

You always look your best, Maury. In any situation.
Don't sulk. It won't look good for us.

MAURY

But we'll be in public for the first time. Together as
we are. I just can't let go of the proper application
of make-up before leaving the house. You were always
better at it than I.

HARRIET

Nonsense. You taught me everything I know about
makeup. You just might want to lighten it up a little.
Now that --

MAURY

But my pock marks.

HARRIET

They're very manly.

MAURY

You think so?

HARRIET

I love your pock marks. Remember it's not what's on the outside that counts.

MAURY

I know. Hormones are a fascinating thing.

HARRIET

It's not coming. We should call a taxi. Do you have your phone?

MAURY

I thought you had yours.

HARRIET

It's charging.

(She sits down on the bench.)

Now what?

MAURY

Now who's sulking? Maybe we should just go the cafe.

HARRIET

That's not a night out.

MAURY

We would have missed the previews anyway.

HARRIET

I know how you love the previews.

MAURY

It's the best part.

HARRIET

Could we still get popcorn?

MAURY

We could make our own. Watch "Casablanca" again.

HARRIET

Or we could just do without I suppose. I just thought

we could finally get out of the house together.

MAURY

It's a big step for me.

HARRIET

Maybe we're not ready for this.

MAURY

Ready for what, Harriet? I'm trying.

HARRIET

Have you given any more thought? To...?

(MAURY puts his hands on his breasts.)

MAURY

I feel like I would be better without them in so many ways. But I've had them my entire life. Would you still love me if I didn't?

HARRIET

Of course. It's the inside that counts. Right?

MAURY

You?

HARRIET

I don't know. Some days I'm done with it. Completely done. Other days...

MAURY

You don't have to do it for me.

HARRIET

I know. It would be completely for my own wellbeing. But you would... Like me better without it?

MAURY

Sure. Harriet. But that's not a good reason.

HARRIET

It's not?

MAURY

It's a big decision.

HARRIET

It could be one of the reasons.

MAURY

Sometimes I wonder. If it's the inside that counts...
Then why are we doing this?

HARRIET

Because. If how we are inside is at odds with how the
world sees us. And how we express ourselves with each
other.

MAURY

I know. It's stressful. But are we changing ourselves
from the inside out? Or the outside in?

HARRIET

What does it matter if there's harmony in the end?

MAURY

I don't want to be a man with pock marks and errant
eyebrows. I want to be more like Brad Pitt than Orson
Wells.

HARRIET

That might require more extensive surgery.

MAURY

What if I just went back to being Mary?

HARRIET

Oh god. (Silence.) I wish that bus would come.

MAURY

I love you, Harriet.

HARRIET

I really wanted to see this movie.

MAURY

It doesn't matter to me what you have, or don't have.

HARRIET

It's such a disappointment.

MAURY

Are you listening to me?

HARRIET

Yes... Maury. (Pause.) You love your breasts.

MAURY

That's not what I'm saying.

HARRIET

Apparently more than I love my... Manhood.

MAURY

Harriet. I'll never be a beautiful woman. But maybe I'd be a better butch dyke than some Al Capone look alike.

HARRIET

I thought this was something we shared.

MAURY

You said maybe we weren't ready for this.

HARRIET

I meant going out on the town. Not... The whole thing.

MAURY

Do you love me, Harriet? Because I loved Harry. And I love Harriet. And no matter what happens, I need to be sure you'd love Mary as much as you do Maury. The fact I'd rather be Brad Pitt than Orson Wells shows I'm not ready for this. I know on the inside I'm more of a Maury than a Mary. And I wanted to be as much a Maury as you are Harriet. I'm not sure that's possible. I'm sorry.

HARRIET

Don't be sorry. I feel like I know you better now. And the more I know you, the more I love you.

(The sound of a bus approaching.)

MAURY

Shall we go the movies?

HARRIET

Let's go home and make popcorn.

MAURY

But no more "Casablanca", Harriet.

HARRIET

I always saw you as more of a Humphrey Bogart than an Orson Wells.

MAURY

Orson Wells was much smarter than Humphrey Bogart.

HARRIET

How could you say that?! I'm appalled. If you really believe that, it's over!

MAURY

No, it's not. It's never over.

(They laugh. Lights fade as they walk away.)

END OF PLAY